

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 22, 2010, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 9-12, 17-23 and 26-30 are pending in the present Application. Claims 18-23 and 26-30 are allowed, and Claims 9-12 and 17 are cancelled, leaving Claims 18-23 and 26-30 for consideration upon entry of the present amendments and following remarks.

Support for the claim amendments can at least be found in the specification, the figures, and the claims as originally filed.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,736,686 to Perret (hereinafter "Perret) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,470,045 to Anderson (hereinafter "Anderson"), and further in view of Fitzgibbons, U.S. Patent No. 3,838,909 (hereinafter "Fitzgibbons").

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perret and Anderson, and further in view of Fitzgibbons and Lyon, U.S. Patent No. 4,521,772 (hereinafter "Lyon").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 9-12 and 17 are hereinabove cancelled without prejudice, and rejections are rendered moot for these claims. Entry of the claim amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the relevant §103 claim rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

Applicants hereby petition for any necessary extension of time required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) or 1.136(b) which may be required for entry and consideration of the present Reply.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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